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Borough of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1959

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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69, New Road,
Solihull.

Tel.No.Sol.3041/2

Although this report is written by me as Medical Officer of Health for Solihull it incorporates aspects seen by me as Area Medical Officer to the Warwickshire County Council.

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mr.Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I present herewith my Annual Report for 1959 relating to the health of the inhabitants of the Borough of Solihull.

Once again I am pleased to say that there has been no major epidemic during the year under review.

I would also give my grateful thanks to the members of the Council and my colleagues for their ready help at all times.

IAN McLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health..

FROM THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The nature of public health work, environmental hygiene if preferred, is continually changing and developing new aspects, and the Clean Air Act, 1956 which gives power to control domestic chimneys and extends control over emissions of smoke from factories, is the latest facet. In the industrial areas, high concentration of factories and houses in small space, each contributing its quota of coal smoke has resulted in a cloud of vapour hanging over the areas cutting out light and damaging vegetation, fabrics, paintwork and masonry to the detriment of living conditions. There is an old saying that "diseases come in the dark and are cured in the sun" and it is well known that lack of sunshine causes depression and affects energy in human beings, whilst sunlight heals. Modern trends in the increased use of gas and electricity as fuels are helping to reduce smoke output, but the use of the Clean Air Act by converting domestic grates to burn smokeless fuels can have far reaching effects as coal is replaced by other fuels without coal's smoky disadvantage. The Council has decided that the "village" of Solihull shall become a Smoke Control Area. When that is done the centre will become an example which can be followed in other parts of the area to the benefit of the whole district.

Fuels today play a large part in the mode of human living and the licensing of petroleum storage installations, undertaken by the Department, though outside the field of sanitary control, is of increasing importance in a country depending to some extent on speed for the retention of a high standard of living. The storage of highly inflammable and in certain conditions explosive fuels needs to be supervised carefully, and the model codes of principle of construction and licensing published for guidance by the Home Office have laid down certain recommendations and stimulated thought. One of these recommendations is that underground tanks should be tested after 20, 25 and 30 years and thereafter biennially.

The test ordinarily used for the purpose involves filling the tanks with petrol and allowing the tank to stand overnight

he liquid level is then measured in relation to the bottom of the tank, allowed to stand for 24 hours and then measured again in order to detect leakage, allowance being made for temperature differences making for expansion or contraction of the fluids between the beginning and end of the test period.

It will be understood that with the ever present risk of flash ignition at the pump the electrical installation needs careful check to ensure that this danger is eliminated. Much time needs therefore to be spent on this kind of work over the years for in addition to testing there are many new and replacement installations to be supervised.

The two subjects mentioned above are typical and seem to merit special mention. but the background routine work of the department pursues its even course, adding it is hoped over the years to the improvement of amenities in the area and diminishing the risk of the spread of communicable disease.

For help in the work one's thanks are due to the Council for their support and encouragement, to one's colleagues for their ever ready help, and to the general public for their reasonableness and co-operation.

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Mayor: Alderman H.W. Miller, J.P.

Deputy Mayor: Alderman E.N. Hiley, M.B.E.

Members of the Public Health Committee: Alderman J.A. Emlyn Jones (Chairman); Councillor V.E. Perry (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Burton, Coombes, Hanna, Lyons, Miss Mahon, Pettinger, Smith and Mrs. Stott.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

IAN M. McLACHLAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ire. L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

a.c.e.f.

ERNEST VAUGHAN

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

a.c.d.

JOSEPH S. FORMAN

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

b.c.

GEOFFREY N. DEAN

b.c.d. . .

ERNEST SOUTHERN

b.c.

ROBERT P. CHURCHILL

b.c.

LESLIE J. PEARCE

b.c.e.

SIDNEY DAVIES (commenced 14.12.59)

Rodent Operative

E. CALLAGHAN

Public Analysts:

BOSTOCK, HILL AND RIGBY

- a. Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute
- b. Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board
- c. Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute
- d. Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute
- e. Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute
- f. Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Population (estimated Mid.1959) Registrar General 88 990

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	852	778	1 630
Illegitimate	20	20	40
	<u>872</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>1,670</u>

Rate per 1 000 Estimated Population 18.7

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11...	7	18
Illegitimate	1		1
	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>19</u>

Rate per 1,000 total live and still Births ... 11.2

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All causes	366	333	699

Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population ... 7.8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	11	10	21
Illegitimate			
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>21</u>

Death Rate of all Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live Births 12.5

Death Rate of legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live Births 12.2

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live Births

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)... .. Nil

Neo natal Mortality under four weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate			
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>

Rate per 1,000 related live births ... 7.9

Early Neo-natal Mortality (1st week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	4	6	10
Illegitimate...	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>

Rate per 1,000 related live births ... 6.1

Perinatal Mortality (stillbirths + deaths during 1st week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ...	15	13	28
Illegitimate...	1	-	1
	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>29</u>

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.. 17.1

Percentage of illegitimate live births ... 2.39

Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion) ... NIL

Maternal Mortality rate (including abortion) per
1,000 total births NIL

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Hospitals - The following is a list of the hospitals and associated clinics in the district:-

- (a) *Solihull Hospital* (includes a Post Natal Recovery Unit at Catherine de Barnes, Maternity Units at Netherwood and Brook House and a Chest Clinic in Lode Lane) administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board Group 25, Selly Oak Birmingham Management Committee.
- (b) *Middlefield Hall*: - administered by Monyhull Hospital Management Committee Group 14.

Laboratory Facilities - The examination of specimens taken in relation to the control of infectious diseases and the examination of milk, water and ice cream samples are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry.

Local Health Authority Services - Warwickshire County Council is responsible for midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, domestic help, ambulance and mental health services under the terms of the National Health Services Act, 1946. The day-to-day administration of all these services with the exception of the ambulance and mental health service is carried out in the Solihull Divisional Health Office. The School Health Service and Child Welfare Centres are staffed by medical officers, specialists and nurses employed by the County Council. The specialist services include the following clinics; dental, ophthalmic, speech defects and child guidance. In addition, local voluntary workers assist and do excellent work at the Child Welfare Centres.

C SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Borough is supplied with mains water by the water undertakings of the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry. The number of houses served by them is approximately as follows:

Birmingham	Coventry
27,594	1,583

There is no evidence that these supplies are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

The following samples of mains water were taken during the year:-

	Birmingham		Coventry	
	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>
No. of Samples submitted	2		2	1
No. Satisfactory	2		2	1

Each year more of the older houses have been connected to the water mains, the number connected in 1959 being as follows:-

<i>No. of houses connected to mains</i>	<i>No. of wells redundant</i>
12	8

Of 878 wells existing in 1944, 435 have now become redundant, leaving 443 wells in active use.

This progress has been made possible by the extension of water mains wherever reasonable and by connection to the mains where pail closet conversions to W.C.s have been carried out, a tap being placed over the household sink at the same time.

As reported elsewhere, this progress has been helped by the payment of grants by the Council in connection with conversions. The older houses without mains supply, invariably, are situated in the rural part of the area, and whilst it is

Council's policy to connect as many houses as possible to the mains in many cases the cost of doing so is prohibitive.

Results of Samples from Wells. A number of samples from individual wells were submitted to the appropriate Laboratory when investigating complaints or for the purposes of supervision, and the results were as follows:

	<i>Chemical & Bacteriological</i>	<i>Bacteriological only</i>
No. of Samples submitted	7	6
No. satisfactory in both tests 	3	-
No. unsatisfactory in both tests 	3	-
No. satisfactory in chemical test only ...	-	-
No. satisfactory in bacteriological test only	-	-
No. unsatisfactory in bacteriological test only	-	6
No. doubtful in bacteriological test only	1	-

Number of houses and population served by public water mains.

(a) Direct to houses:

The number of houses and retail shops as ascertained from the rate books is 29,620. Of these, approximately 29,025 houses or 98% are connected direct to the mains, whilst 583 or 2% are served by 443 wells.

(b) By Standpipes:

12 houses are served by mains water from 6 standpipes or taps in out buildings for the common use of several houses.

Drainage and Sewerage The local sewerage system has been extended by the laying of 6,460 yards of foul sewers and 1,031 yards of surface water sewers.

Closet Accommodation and Cesspools. During the year under review, 24 pail closets were converted to mechanically flushed water closets, and as a result, 19 cesspools were put out of use, and £861 was paid by the Council to owners of properties in the form of grants towards the cost of conversions.

Over the past 11 years 295 pail-closets have been dispensed with.

The Borough Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the emptying of pail-closets and cesspools, stated that at the end of 1959 473 pail-closets and 695 cesspools existed in the Council's area and the number of properties drained to cesspools is stated to be 977.

Public Cleansing. The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Borough, the ash bin method of storage being general and the system of disposal that of controlled tipping.

. HOUSING.

The following are details of new units of housing accommodation completed during the year

Council Houses	...	...	...	129
Private Houses	...	...	...	932
Flats	...	...	...	87
				<u>1,148</u>

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 287

Number of dwelling houses (including above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 8

Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 4

Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 80

Overcrowding.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 2

Number of families dwelling therein ... 4

Number of persons dwelling therein ... 13

Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1

Houses Demolished or Closed

Number of houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 57

Houses Demolished or Closed. (Cont'd.)

Number of persons displaced as a result of above	116
Number of persons displaced as a result of a Closing Order	NIL

Repairs:

Number of houses made fit after informal action	112
Number of houses made fit after formal notice	4

RENT ACT, 1957

Applications for Certificate of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificate ...	24
(2) Number of "decisions" not to issue certificates	NIL
(3) Number of "decisions" to issue certificates	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	13
(b) in respect of all defects	8
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ..	22
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under provision to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	NIL
(6) Number of Certificates issued	6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register

Retail Dairymen	9
Shopkeepers retailing milk	25
Retail Dairymen registered outside Solihull but selling milk in the district	9

Licences issued in connection with the sale of Designated Milks.

Supplementary Licences:

Pasteurised	9
Sterilised	9
Tuberculin Tested	9

Dealers' Licences

Pasteurised	21
Sterilised	31
Tuberculin Tested	16

MILK SAMPLES

The following table gives the results of milk samples submitted for biological, bacteriological, phosphatase and turbidity tests.

	Untreated Milk		Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk		Pasteurised Milk		Sterilised Milk		Totals	
No. of Samples			47		59		32		138	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue Test	-	-	47	-	59	-	-	-	106	-
Phosphatase Test	-	-	47	-	59	-	-	-	106	-
Turbidity Test	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	32	-

ICE CREAM

Manufacturers' Premises

At the close of the year 14 Ice Cream Manufacturers' Premises were registered in accordance with the provisions of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 but all have discontinued manufacture.

Vendors

Registered and retailing ice cream at close of 1958	201
New registrations during the year	5
Registrations transferred	14
Discontinued	

Vendors premises where pre-packed and/or loose ice cream was sold as follows:-

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	163
Selling pre packed and loose ice cream	35
Selling loose ice cream only	3

The methylene blue test was used for estimating the bacteriological quality. The results of tests are divided into four grades. 27 samples were submitted to the test and graded as follows:-

Grades	1	2	3	4
No. of Samples	21	6		

Grade 1 is the highest grade and ice cream placed in Grade 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory.

Analysis of Ice Cream Samples for Fat Content, Sucrose and Milk Solids.

No. of Samples	Satisfactory
28	28

By the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1953, ice cream is required to contain 5% fat, 10% sugar, and 7½% milk solids other than fat.

Iced Lollipops

Of 177 vendors of iced lollipops in the area, 5 are manufacturing the product they sell by retail.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

One of the seven licensed slaughterhouses was licensed for a five year period which expired in July and is now licensed annually as are the other six slaughterhouses.

During the year the Slaughter of Animals Act 1958 and the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 came into operation. About this time the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention and Cruelty) Regulations 1958 were also published.

The new Acts and Regulations have as their main object the humane slaughtering of animals for human consumption under hygienic conditions and the improvement of slaughterhouses.

The Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959 required local authorities to submit detailed reports on the state of each of the slaughterhouses in their district to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on or before the end November 1960.

SLAUGHTERMEN

Sixteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year, all of them in respect of cattle, sheep and pigs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excl'dg cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	632	2	11	6815	1252	6
Number inspected	632	2	11	6815	1252	6
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	148	1	1	305	103	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	23.4	1	1	0.4	8.3	1
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	2	1	1	20	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.8	100	1	1	1.6	1
CYSTICEROSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	1	1	1	1	1
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	1	1	1	1	1
Generalised and totally condemned	1	1	1	1	1	1

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS

The number of registered premises at the close of 1959 was 11.

Only 8 of the 11 registered premises are in use for the manufacture of meat products.

OTHER FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

Routine inspections of commercial kitchens, workshouses and of vehicles from which food is sold were made during the year, there being no stalls where food is prepared in the area.

LEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

The following information is in the form requested by the Ministry of Health:-

(1) *The number of food premises in the area by type of business:*

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	60
Cafe and Snack Bars including Public Houses serving meals	...	...	...	...	...	41
Confectioners (Bread, cakes, pastry chocolates and sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	56
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	61
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	133

(2) *Number of registered food premises under Section 97 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936.*

Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	201
Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	NIL
Wholesale Distributors	...	...	...	...	1
Manufacturers of Meat Products	...	...	...	...	8

(3) *Inspections of registered food premises* ... 92

(4) The most successful educational propaganda is undoubtedly carried on by Health inspectors visiting food premises

and talking or demonstrating to the workers on the spot. No opportunity is lost of stressing the importance of hygiene in the preparation and distribution of food and the high standard of food handling in shops in the area has been maintained.

In addition to these day-to-day activities the opportunity is taken of addressing meetings on the subject.

(5) *The amount and method of disposal of condemned food.*

The following food was examined and disposed of by burial after inspection had shown that it was unfit for human consumption:

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offal		1	2	10
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods	1	1	-	25
Other Foods		17	-	16
	<u>1</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>23</u>

In connection with this work 617 "surrenders" of unsound food were made, in respect of which 328 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

(6) Special Examinations NIL

(7) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52 - See previous section on Ice Cream.

(8) *Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56*

These regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. Generally speaking there has been ready compliance with the requirements of the Regulations, and as a result of requests made by the Department the following work was carried out:-

Wash Hand Basins Provided	...	...	...	1
Wash Hand Notices Provided	...	...	...	-
Hot Water Provided	....	...	...	1
Sinks Provided	...	...	...	1
Walls and Ceilings re-surfaced		...	...	17

Floors repaired	...	...	...	...
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	4

No exceptional difficulties were experienced.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

The work done during 1959.

					Total number of samples taken
					Formal Informal
Milk	...	...	...	...	72
Miscellaneous Food and Drugs					140

Of these, all the formal samples of milk, and 137 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as unsatisfactory.

The results of unsatisfactory samples of Foods and Drugs and as a results of routine sampling were as follows:

Article	Method	Remarks
1 Multi-Vitamin and Mineral Tablets.	Informal	Deficient of stated amount of Vitamin C. Chief Analyst of the Manufacturers attended on the Public Analyst and agreement was reached on methods of analysis and the steps to be taken with regard to correct labelling of the product.
5 Chilli Sauce	Informal	Unsatisfactory label. Ingredients were stated in the wrong order, and salt was contained in the Sauce but not declared Manufactured in Hongkong. Old stock new stock is correctly labelled.
Goat Cheese	Informal	Unsatisfactory label. The sample was labelled "Whey Cheese made from Cow's and Goat's Milk and Cream" Negotiations with the supplier have secured the removal of the "Goat Cheese" from the label.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

	1959	1958	1957
Total number of complaints received	22	32	28
Number of complaints where samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination	12	11	12
Number of complaints where samples were examined in the Department..	6	11	5
Number of complaints dealt with Departmentally	4	10	11

(1) Action taken on Samples submitted to the Public Analyst for Examination

Sample No.	Article	Remarks
3270	Biscuit	Contained a foreign body consisting of a piece of white wool measuring approximately 0.6 ins. in length and 0.04 in. in diameter - part of a conveyor belt. Referred to Manufacturer.
3283	Cooked Cauliflower	Alleged to have caused sickness. Contained 400 p.p.m. of Aluminum supposed to impart an unpleasant taste. Complainant informed.
3284	Bread	Contained a hole. There was no evidence of the presence of rodent hairs nor of any contaminant of animal origin. The whole was most likely to have the result of mechanical damage. Referred to Manufacturer.
3303	Malted Cake	Alleged to have caused sickness. Contained no chemical substance likely to have caused sickness. The Public Health Laboratory Service reported that no organism of pathological significance was recovered. No further action taken.
3304	Bread	Contained a foreign body consisting of a hardened pellet of dough contaminated with rust. Referred to manufacturer.
3317	Bread	Contained a foreign body consisting of a piece of thin steel measuring approximately 7/10" length which had been baked in the bread. Referred to manufacturer.

<i>Sample No</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
3366	Bread	Contained foreign matter in the form of a grey-black stain baked in the bread. The stain consisted of carbonaceous matter and some grease with a trace of iron and has probably arisen from the contact of some of the dough with the machinery. Referred to manufacturer.
3367	Chocolate-covered Swiss Rolls	<p>Contained the following foreign matter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Insect excreta. 2. Webbing threads of insect origin. 3. One live insect larva. <p>The larva had the characteristics of a moth larva of the family Phycitinae, which include the Cocoa Bean Moth. Legal proceedings were instituted and the retailer was fined £20., with costs of £2.10.0d., and an Advocate's fee of £2.2.0d.</p>
3373	Bread	Contained foreign matter consisting substantially of carbonised starchy material and greases together with a little sandy matter. Council resolved that a warning be issued to the manufacturer.
3374	Bread	Contained foreign material consisting of coal, sandy matter and grease bound together with dough. Referred to manufacturer.
410	Bread	Contained a foreign body consisting of a small hard object, measuring approximately $3/8$ " by $1/4$ ". Essentially calcium carbonate together with adhering baked bread, and could have been derived from flour. No further action taken.
411	Bread	Contained a foreign body alleged to be a maggot. Material was of vegetable origin consisting substantially of wheat husk and was natural to the ingredients used in bread making

(2) Samples examined in the Department

Sample No	Article	Remarks
C/1/59	Clotted Cream	Contained a mould growth. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £3 with an Advocate's fee of £3.3.0d., was imposed.
C/2/59	Curry Powder	Contained a mould growth. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £2.10.0d., with an Advocate's fee of £1.1.0d., was imposed.
C/3/59	Orange Drink	Contained pieces of broken glass. Legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £10 with costs of £11.10.6d., and an Advocate's fee of £7.7.0d. was imposed.
C/4/59	Bread	Contained a blood stained finger bandage. Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturers and they in turn summoned two of their employees for not exercising due diligence in the preparation of the bread. The charges against the company and one employee were dismissed and the foreman was fined £15.
C/5/59	Salmon	Alleged to contain particles of glass. Found to be harmless chemical crystals. No further action taken.
C/6/59	Malted Fruit Cake	Mouldy. Council resolved that a warning be issued to the Retailer.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are two open air public swimming baths in the area; relevant particulars being as follows:-

Name	Capacity gals.	Water Sources	Time required to filter pool contents.
Malvern Park (owned by Council)	125,000	Birmingham Mains	6 hours
Greswolde Hotel (privately owned)	140,000	Coventry mains	6.4 hours

In both cases the method of treatment of water is by filtration and chlorination. There are satisfactory handrails at each bath. Three water samples from each pool were taken at approximately monthly intervals and were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. On each occasion the water declared to be in a safe condition for public use.

In addition to these samples frequent checks were made by Public Health Inspectors who carried out tests of the water in order to determine free chlorine and pH values. Any comments made to the management immediately and low readings were noted.

Byelaws under section 223 of the Public Health Act, 1956 in respect to Swimming Pools are in operation.

Probably due to the exceptional fine, warm and sunny weather the publicly owned Malvern Hall Pool doubled its number of attendances. No figures of attendances are available in respect of the Greswolde Pool.

1. *Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health*

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...				
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ...	71	24		
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). ...		6		
TOTAL	71	30		

2 Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	3	3			
Overcrowding (Section 2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3) ...					
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4) ...	2	2			
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6) ...	2	2			
Sanitary Conveniences (Section ...)					
Insufficient	2	1		1	
Unsuitable or defective	7	7		3	
Not separate for sexes					
Offences against the Act					
TOTAL	16	15		4	

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
(1)						
Wearing Apparel	1					
Making etc.						
Cleaning and Washing . .						
Household Linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

A step forward towards a cleaner atmosphere was taken by the Council when it agreed to a programme of six smoke control areas to be established within four years, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It was decided to proceed with areas in and near the centre of Solihull, and the first area comprising 316 private houses and 245 corporation - owned houses in addition to 18 other premises was awaiting the Ministry's confirmation order at the close of the year. The completed four year programme is expected to include 3438 houses in 1669 acres of the Borough.

There has been no change in the siting of the 5 deposit gauges (used for calculating the grit and dust deposit) and 5 lead peroxide instruments (used for calculating the concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air. The daily smoke filter and volumetric apparatus for calculating the daily amounts of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere has remained in operation at the Council House.

As these instruments were first sited in June 1958, it is interesting to compare the average monthly figures for the first full calendar year that they have been in operation.

Deposit Gauges

	Lyndon Rd Olton	Burman Rd Shirley	Cranmore Shirley	Greswolde Knowle	Salter St. Earlswood
Total	98.65	83.87	82.81	64.99	56.27
Monthly Average	8.22	6.82	6.90	5.41	4.69

Figures represent Tons Per Square Mile.

The months November to January inclusive showed the greatest deposit and that of August the least.

Lead Peroxide Candles

	Lyndon Rd Olton	Burman Rd Shirley	Cranmore Shirley	Greswolde Knowle	Salter St. Earlswood
Total	22.31*	12.76	13.22	7.83	7.79
Monthly Average	1.86*	1.63	1.10	0.65	0.64

* Figures represent mg/100 sq. cms. per day

November to February inclusive showed the greatest sulphur contamination of the air and the month of July the least.

Daily Smoke & Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus

	Smoke (in m/gm per 100 ccs. air)	Sulphur Dioxide (in Vols. per 100 million)
Total	74.87	52.37
Daily Average	6.26	4.36

Smoke pollution and sulphur dioxide contamination were greatest in December and least in July

G FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

Only one firm is registered to upholster new furniture there are no premises licensed for the manufacture or storage or distribution to registered premises

T ANIMALS ACT 1951

Occupiers of 3 pet shops had their annual licences renewed. The Act prescribes the conditions under which pet animals should be kept whilst awaiting sale. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals inspect the premises on behalf of the Council

S AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

As from the 31st March the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food terminated its direct grants to Local Authorities towards the cost of rodent control although the system of block grants to Local Authorities will make allowance towards this expenditure.

Coincident with the termination of direct grants the Ministry terminated its contracts with farmers and small holders to carry out rodent control on their lands. This work is now carried out by the Department. Formerly, only the survey work was carried out by us and operatives under the control of the Ministry carried out the disinfestations. At the end of December the Department undertook work of the Ministry which included contracts which previously were serviced by the Ministry.

One rodent operative is employed by the Council and he uses the use of a light van for the conveyance of himself and the materials he uses.

Over the years the opinion has been formed that bird feeding by householders is largely responsible for many infestations, as rats have been seen emerging from rockeries beneath sheds and even dog kennels to feed after scraps have been thrown for consumption by birds.

WASPS.

In addition to ridding premises of rodents an operative has been occupied during the summer months on the treatment of 165 wasps nests.

A summary of the work done by the operative is as follows:-

	Type of Property			
	Private	Business and Industrial	Local Authority	Agricultural
Properties Inspected				
On complaint	435	14	9	16
Survey	185	1		
Properties Treated	591	13	9	16
Dead Rats found	1173	33	19	54
Dead Mice found	6	9	14	

SEWER TREATMENTS.

For the first time since the six monthly treatment of sewers commenced some years ago, no treatment was given during the year. The rodent operative was ill during March when a treatment is usually given and on his return, the accumulation of complaints from householders and occupiers of business premises was given priority for treatment.

The second treatment is usually given in the autumn each year, but the large amount of work in hand prevented

rodent operative from doing this. It is apparent that the growth of the district is bringing with it an increase in the number of rat complaints.

CARAVANS.

Again this year a group of some 30 vans, used by people carrying out trading, occupied sites within the Borough. Before action could be taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts the vans were moved from one site to another, still within the Borough. Eventually action was taken against the owner of one plot of land on which the vans were sited, under the provision of the Solihull Urban District Council Act 1936 and in the Magistrate's Court the owner was fined £20 and costs in respect of ten vans. The 30 vans moved out of the district without any further action being necessary. Action was also taken in one case under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 resulting in a £2 fine with costs for failing to comply with notices to remove a van.

Caravans Used for Full Time Occupation

a. established at end of 1958	57
b. newly sited during 1959	36
c. removed from sites during 1959	38
d. established at end of 1959	55
e. of Temporary Permissions given under Section 14 of the Solihull Urban District Act 1936 and Town and Country Planning Act 1947 (including 3 Renewals)	7
f. of Permissions refused before caravans sited	4

Caravans Used for Recreational Purposes Only

a. established at end of 1958	18
b. newly sited during 1959	NIL
c. sited at end of 1959	18

Five persons were granted permission to use their caravans for a temporary period. Of these four were owners who wished to live in the caravans pending completion of houses in course of construction and one for living purposes whilst the occupier was engaged in constructional work.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

(a) *Permanent Dwellings.*

During the year 4 notices were served under the Housing Acts inviting owners to appear before the Council when demolition of their property was being considered. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 3 of these houses and in the case of 1 house the owners undertook not to use the premises for human habitation.

In 1959, 43 houses were demolished following action taken during previous years including action under clearance areas. At the end of the year 4 cases were awaiting re-housing by the Council and 9 others were outstanding from previous years.

(b) *Temporary Dwellings.*

In 3 cases notices were served under the Housing Acts inviting owners to appear before the Council at the time when Demolition Orders were being considered. 3 Demolition Orders were made. 8 temporary dwellings were demolished as a result of action taken in previous years.

At the end of the year tenants of 2 dwellings were awaiting re-housing by the Council.

SHOPS

The total number of shops in the Borough at December 31st, 1959, was 945 representing an increase of 62 over the total on December, 31st 1958.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

110 premises were licensed for the storage of a total of 294,210 gallons of petroleum spirit and 14,503 gallons of petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £103.0s 0d.

New installations supervised	3
Air tests on storage tanks supervised	12
Ullage tests on existing tanks carried out and air tests on associated pipelines	18

New vent pipes or flame traps provided to existing tanks	3
Existing electrically operated petrol pumps either replaced by new or modified to comply with the model code	29
Installations removed	1

PREVALANCE OF - AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infamous Diseases

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria have been notified since 1951.

Polio-myelitis

No cases occurred during the year

Tuberculosis

The number of notified cases on the office Tuberculosis Register as at 31st December, 1959 was as follows

Respiratory	Non Respiratory	Total
374	27	401

Food Poisoning

Three notifications were received during the year in respect of Food Poisoning. In no case was the cause of the illness discovered

Vaccinations

Smallpox

The number of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during year was as follows

	Age at Date of Vaccination				Total
	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15 yrs. and over	
Initial vaccination	1,233	106	27	58	1,424
Revaccination		5	15	152	172

Total Births 1,670

(b) *Poliomyelitis*

Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year, and the following table shows the number of persons known to have been vaccinated at any time before the 31st December 1959

	Age Groups				Total
	Under 1 yr.	1 4 yrs	5-14 yrs.	15 yrs.	
Primary ...	31	4 742	12 082	6 940	23 795
Booster ...	-	3 391	10 776	2 976	17 143

3 . Immunisations

Diphtheria and Diphtheria/Whooping Cough

The following table shows the number of children known have been immunised at any time before 31st December, 1959.

Age at 31st December, 1959	No. of children Immunised
15	961
14	798
13	869
12	980
11	916
10	784
9	707
8	748
7	758
6	834
5	891
4	988
3	1 078
2	1 228
1	1 132
Under 1	306

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 50.

This Authority undertook the responsibility for the burial of one male, aged 47 years, during the year, as required by the above Act. The request by the family of the deceased, who lived in poor circumstances, that the deceased be buried in the family grave in an adjoining district was acceded to.

TABLE OF WORK DONE - 1959

DWELLING HOUSES

Internal defects remedied

Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective ranges, fireplaces, flues	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective windows and doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Defective damp walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective wastepipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

External defects remedied

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Defective pointing etc. of walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective gulley channels	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective eavesgutters	33
Miscellaneous defects remedied	10

DEMOLITION

Houses demolished	57
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WATER SUPPLY

Houses connected to mains	5
Well supplies discontinued	5

WATER

Apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water supply pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

DRAINAGE

Drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	44
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous drainage works	...	...	...	...	6

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Pails converted to w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	26
W.C. apparatus	26
W.C. buildings	4

PETROLEUM

See body of report for details	66
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MISCELLANEOUS

Defects at food premises remedied	22
Defects at factories remedied	15
Defects at shops remedied	...	...	...	8
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	6
Watercourse and ditches cleansed	...	...	...	7
Insect disinfestations	32
Premises disinfested of rats	58

MISCELLANEOUS DEFECTS REMEDIED	24
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TOTAL

687

TABLE I

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Summary of Visits and Notices Served in the Public Health Inspector's Department during the Year 1959

	<i>Visits Made</i>	<i>Notices Served Statutory</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Verbal Notices</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Housing Public Health Acts ...	579	6	89	38	138
Housing Housing Acts ...	275	4	-	-	1
Housing Caravans	30	-	1	3	2
Housing Rent Act	57	20	3	-	12
Schools...	207	-	-	-	-
Drainage ...	222	-	2	9	11
Swimming Pools ...	29	-	-	9	10
W.C. Closet	-	-	-	-	-
Conversions ...	191	-	-	39	24
Refuse disposal and collection ...	23	-	-	2	2
Sound Food ...	116	-	-	-	-
Food Preparation Rooms	56	-	1	1	6
Shops ...	348	-	1	4	5
Ice Cream Premises	30	-	-	-	-
Licensed Premises	10	-	-	-	-
Sampling Milk...	63	-	-	-	-
Sampling Food & Drugs	-	-	-	-	-
Acts ...	54	-	-	-	-
Sampling Ice Cream	24	-	-	-	-
Sampling Water	17	-	-	-	-
Sampling Swimming Pools	20	-	-	-	-
Smoke Observations	27	-	-	1	-
Other Smoke Visits	710	-	2	8	10
Factories and Workplaces ...	35	-	1	2	10
Water Supplies	77	-	-	1	5
Water Courses and Pitches ...	33	-	2	2	4
Swimming Pools	20	-	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases & Disinfection	142	-	-	-	-
Rats and Mice...	570	-	-	1	-
Insect Infestations	76	-	1	-	1
Asbestos	-	-	-	-	-
Installations	177	-	-	-	-
Interviews ...	289	-	-	-	-
Cellaneous...	665	-	-	-	-
Health Inspections	957	-	-	-	-
Food Hygiene	75	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,204</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>241</u>

TABLE 11

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Vital Statistics of Whole District During 1959 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births		Nett Deaths Belonging to the Borough			
		Nett		Under 1 year		At all ages	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1951	67,980	991	14.5	29	29.2	676	9.9
1952	68,420	897	13.1	26	28.9	600	8.7
1953	69,570	962	13.8	25	25.9	565	8.1
1954	72,470	1,033	14.2	21	20.3	598	8.2
1955	75,740	1,181	15.6	22	18.6	660	8.7
1956	78,860	1,264	16.0	14	11.1	636	8.1
1957	81,620	1,489	18.2	22	14.7	681	8.3
1958	85,150	1,490	17.4	28	18.7	693	8.1
1959	88,990	1,670	18.7	21	12.5	699	7.8

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1959

England and Wales

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Infantile Mortality during the Year, 1959. (Provisional Figures)

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

Live Births per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	10
Deaths per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	11
Still Births per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	20
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	2

TABLE III

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified During the Year, 1959

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified							
	At all Ages	At Ages - Years						
		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 65	65 and over	Age unknown
Smallpox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)								
Erysipelas	8				1	5	2	
Scarlet Fever	102		27	69	2			4
Paratyphoid Fever								
Enteric Fever								
Pneumonia	110		11	8	34	21	23	13
Malaria								
Dysentery	4	1	1	1	1			
Interperal Pyrexia	7				6			1
Cerebro spinal Meningitis								
Polio myelitis								
Acute Encephalitis								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5						
Polio Encephalitis								
Respiratory Tuberculosis	22		1	1	15	4	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5				5			
Streptococcal Meningitis								
Food Poisoning	3				3			
	266	6	40	79	67	30	26	18

TABLE IV

BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

Causes of Death During the Year, 1959

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
ALL CAUSES	366	333
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1
2. Tuberculosis, Other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach... ..	10	9
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	20	5
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	14
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus... ..	-	10
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	46	35
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	3
16. Diabetes... ..	1	5
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	31	59
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	66	42
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	5
20. Other Heart Disease	30	46
21. Other Circulatory Disease	13	13
22. Influenza	14	8
23. Pneumonia	17	20
24. Bronchitis	32	5
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	10	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	3
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	6	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	5
32. Other defined and ill defined Diseases	22	25
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	12	3
34. All other Accidents	3	7
35. Suicide	7	4
36. Homicide and Operations of War	1	-

METEOROLOGICAL RECORDINGS FROM THE STATION AT 90, STATION ROAD, SOLIHULL.
Kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. C. R. Hutchinson, B. Sc., A. M. I. C. E.

Barometer set at 442 feet above Sea Level							
Month	Thermometers at 4' 0 Shaded (Fahrenheit Scale)			Rainfall		Sunshine	
	Maximum Air varied Between degrees	Minimum Air varied between	Minimum Ground varied between	Monthly Total inches	Average for the month over 12 years.	Monthly Total Hours	Average for the month over 12 years
January	28.2 to 49.8	16.2 to 44.4	13.5 to 41.9	3.40	2.17	50.1	42.15
February	32.4 to 62.8	28.0 to 44.5	24.9 to 43.0	0.06	2.09	42.1	62.48
March	38.0 to 63.4	31.6 to 45.9	26.5 to 45.9	2.22	2.31	73.8	87.13
April	50.2 to 68.2	33.5 to 50.5	28.3 to 49.5	3.68	1.62	124.4	137.76
May	50.1 to 80.2	31.7 to 52.0	25.3 to 50.0	0.98	2.48	206.3	176.14
June	59.0 to 79.9	40.7 to 59.4	34.3 to 59.3	0.69	2.21	213.9	172.70
July	65.5 to 86.5	44.5 to 60.7	38.2 to 59.2	1.44	2.39	232.5	176.87
August	62.1 to 85.2	41.0 to 62.3	33.9 to 60.7	1.22	3.17	201.8	156.66
September	59.9 to 83.3	32.4 to 54.0	25.2 to 49.5	0.09	2.50	147.1	112.32
October	47.7 to 80.1	35.0 to 54.0	29.3 to 53.8	3.22	2.38	121.0	87.8
November	42.4 to 57.2	22.7 to 47.5	16.6 to 46.5	4.32	2.89	49.6	51.7
December	39.8 to 52.2	28.0 to 47.9	25.5 to 46.1	5.15	2.36	35.1	38.9

